

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-10. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,421,231 B1 to Jung (hereinafter "Jung") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,002,582 to Yeager et al. (hereinafter "Yeager").

Regarding the rejection of method claims 1-5 under §103(a), the Examiner concedes that Jung does not teach the same methods as claimed by Applicant. However, the Examiner argues that Jung teaches a method of inserting a display panel into a standard-sized rear receiving case. The Examiner states that Jung does not appear to disclose at least one first spacer, but that Yeager discloses a plurality of spaced apart tabs located in similar positions as the present invention. The Examiner further states that Jung teaches the step of fixing the display panel into the mounting case with a plurality of brackets and bosses that are at different positions from each other. Therefore, according to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to incorporate the methods taught by Yeager into the methods taught by Jung because it is desirable to manufacture a common sized receiving case that can be easily adapted to accommodate various sized display devices as taught by Jung and Yeager.

Jung teaches a display unit in which the LCD panel has a hole 38 on the side wall of the LCD panel formed for insertion of a screw 20 thereof in order for the LCD panel to be mounted onto the display unit (Figs. 5A, 5B, Col. 5, lines 1-5). The brackets 70 and 70' contain holes 75 that correspond to the holes 38 on the LCD panel through which the screws 20 are inserted. Similarly, Yeager requires the LCD panel to have fasteners extending through four mounting points 65 in the frame in order for the unit to be able to hold LCD panels (Figs. 3, 4, Col. 3, lines 28-44).

Claim 1, as amended, recites the use of holding members 3 disposed at different positions from each other and fastened to the inner main-face of the panel-mounting case. Jung teaches

brackets and bosses that are fastened to the actual LCD display panel. Claim 1 has been amended to show that the holding members are specifically fastened to the inner main-face of the panel-mounting case. In Jung, the holes are located in the side walls of the LCD panel and on the corresponding brackets, thus rendering it incapable of use for many LCD panels that do not have pre-manufactured holes located at the exact points corresponding to the brackets in order for the display unit to function properly.

Additionally, claim 1 recites the use of at least one first spacer 4 that is inserted between a back face of the display panel 2 and an inner main-face of the panel-mounting case 1, supporting a rear face of the display panel 2. Yeager teaches a display unit in which the spaced apart tabs are pre-manufactured. Claim 1 allows a method in which a spacer can be inserted after manufacture of the display unit depending on the size of the LCD panel installed in the display unit.

For all the reasons stated above, and because the holding members of claim 1 are not taught by either Jung or Yeager, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of the two references does not render the present invention obvious. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the §103(a) rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Turning to the §103(a) rejections of dependent claims 2-5, it must be noted that the Examiner relies on Jung in combination with Yeager to support the asserted rejections. As set out above, Jung or Yeager does not disclose all the elements of independent claim 1. In addition, the hypothetical combination of Jung and Yeager would not result in all of the elements of claim 1. Accordingly, since dependent claims 2-5 recite additional unique elements and/or limitations, claims 2-5 remain patentable over the asserted combination since the cited additional reference does not supply the elements missing from Jung or Yeager with respect to the independent claim.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the §103(a) rejection of claims 2-5 be withdrawn and respectfully submitted that the claims be allowed.

Additionally, claim 4 recites a method wherein at least 2 holding members and at least one first and second spacer are used in combination. This method allows LCD panels of various shapes, thickness and display screen sizes to be mounted on a same display unit without need of any modification to the unit. Such a feature is not made obvious by the cited references, individually or in combination.

The Examiner rejects claim 6 arguing that Jung teaches the use of brackets and bosses that can be adapted to accommodate various sized displays and that Yeager discloses the use of a plurality of spaced apart tabs to aid in fixably mounting a display device. The Examiner further states that both Jung and Yeager have a common sized case for receiving the display panel and predetermined panel edge covers, and that Jung teaches brackets and bosses that hold the display. Therefore, according to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to incorporate those elements of Yeager into the design of Jung to reduce manufacturing developing time and cost.

Claim 6, as amended, recites the use of holding members disposed at different positions from each other and fastened to the inner main-face of the panel-mounting case. Again, the holding members of claim 6 are not disclosed by the brackets and bosses of Jung, which attach to the LCD panel itself. If the LCD panel does not have pre-manufactured holes that correspond to the brackets, the display unit of Jung will not work for that LCD panel. Therefore, it is incapable of use for LCD panels from different manufactures or of different sizes. The holding members of the present invention attach to the inner main-face of the panel mounting case, holding the corners of the LCD panel securely. Additionally, different holding members can be used

depending on the size of the LCD panel. Therefore, it is capable of being used with different brands and sizes of LCD panels, without requiring the LCD panels to contain pre-manufactured holes in order for the display unit to operate properly.

Similarly, Yeager does not teach the holding members of claim 6. Yeager uses a frame that attaches over the LCD panel, which is secured by fasteners extending through mounting points in the frame. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Jung or Yeager, individually or in combination, do not disclose the holding members of claim 6, and it is respectfully requested that the §103(a) rejection of claim 6 be withdrawn.

Turning to the §103(a) rejections of dependent claims 7-10, it must be noted that the Examiner relies on Jung in combination with Yeager to support the asserted rejections. As set out above, Jung or Yeager does not disclose all the elements of independent claim 6. In addition, the hypothetical combination of Jung and Yeager would not result in all of the elements of claim 6. Accordingly, since dependent claims 7-10 recite additional unique elements and/or limitations, claims 7-10 remain patentable over the asserted combination since the cited additional reference does not supply the elements missing from Jung or Yeager with respect to the independent claim. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the §103(a) rejection of claims 7-10 be withdrawn and respectfully submitted that the claims be allowed.

Additionally, claim 9 recites a display panel housing wherein at least 2 holding members and at least one first and second spacer are used in combination. This housing allows LCD panels of various shapes, thickness and display screen sizes to be mounted on a same display unit without need of any modification to the unit. Such a feature is not made obvious by the cited references.

The references of Jung and Yeager, individually or in combination, do not teach such a method or apparatus as disclosed in claims 1-10, and fail to render the method of the present invention obvious. The reference Jung cited by the Examiner requires the LCD panels themselves to be constructed in a certain way in order to be compatible with the display unit. Yeager actually fails to disclose any sort of holding member, and uses the frame itself to secure the LCD panel. The holding members of the present invention allow an LCD panel of any size or shape to be held in the unit disclosed, regardless of whether the LCD panel has pre-manufactured holes or if the frame has mounting points in it already, as the cited references require.

In proceedings before the Patent and Trademark Office, the Examiner bears the burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness based upon the prior art. In re Piasecki, 745 F.2d 1468, 1471-72, 223 USPQ 785, 787-88 (Fed. Cir. 1984). The Examiner has not cited any references that would render the method of mounting a display panel or the display panel housing provided in claims 1-10 obvious. Combining the references of Jung and Yeager will not result in the teachings of the present invention. Therefore, we believe the Examiner has not met his burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness based on the prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103(a); no objective teaching in Jung or Yeager, individually or in combination, would lead an individual of ordinary skill in the art to produce the present invention. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the §103(a) rejection of claims 1-10 be withdrawn, and the claims allowed.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "P. Esatto, Jr.".

Paul J. Esatto, Jr.

Registration No. 30,749

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER
400 Garden City Plaza
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343

PJE:AVS:gmj



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

RECEIVED
JAN 14 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 4, 6 and 9 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for mounting a display panel selected from various kinds of display panels in a predetermined common display panel housing installed in an open-and-close manner or detachably on a main body of an information processing apparatus, wherein said display panel housing has a predetermined panel-mounting case for inserting said display panel therein and a predetermined panel-edge cover for covering edge portions of said display panel, said method comprising:

a step of inserting said display panel in said predetermined panel-mounting case through at least one first spacer, whereby said at least one first spacer is [sandwiched] inserted between a back face of said display panel and an inner main-face of said panel-mounting case;

a step of fixedly holding said display panel in said panel-mounting case with at least two holding members, disposed at different positions from each other and fastened to said inner main-face of said panel-mounting case; and

a step of covering edge portions of said display panel in said panel-mounting case with said predetermined panel-edge cover; and

whereby said display panel is mounted in said predetermined common display panel housing.

4. (Amended) The mounting method according to claim [1] 2, wherein said at least two holding members, said at least one first spacer and said at least one second spacer are used in combination in accordance with each of said various kinds of display panels.

6. (Amended) A display panel housing installed in an open-and-close manner or detachably on a main body of an information processing apparatus, mounting a display panel selected from various kinds of display panels, said display panel housing comprising:



a predetermined panel-mounting case for inserting said display panel therein;
a predetermined panel-edge cover for covering edge portions of said display panel;
at least one first spacer [sandwiched] inserted between a back face of said display panel and an inner main-face of said panel-mounting case, such that said display panel is placed in said predetermined panel-mounting case through at least one first spacer;
at least two holding members disposed at different positions from each other and fastened to said inner main-face of said panel-mounting case, with which said display panel is fixedly held in said panel-mounting case;
wherein edge portions of said display panel are covered in said panel-mounting case with said predetermined panel-edge cover; and
whereby said display panel is mounted in said predetermined common display panel housing.

9. (Amended) The display panel housing according to claim [6] 7, wherein said at least two holding members, said at least one first spacer and said at least one second spacer are used in combination in accordance with each of said various kinds of display panels.

RECEIVED
JAN 14 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800